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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL 240

APRIL, 1963

More Workers Employed, March Sets New Record

Signs of spring employment expansion were evident in March as the first seasonal workers laid off last fall and winter in Montana's non-farm industries were back at work. The 1,400 more wage earners added to March non-farm payrolls is the first step toward the re-employment of some of the 15,500 jobseekers registered at the state's twenty-two local employment offices. Since March 15 the upward employment trend has gained momentum not reflected in the current employment figures since estimates are compiled at mid-month.

Ten Year Gain Is Five Per Cent

March estimates show 162,900 on industrial payrolls as of the 15th, an increase of 1,400 from February and 3,300 more than a year ago. Average March employment for the ten years 1954-1963 is 155,300, indicating a five per cent increase in employment during that ten year span.

Most Industries Ahead of Last Year

Comparison with employment of a year ago shows gains in six of the eight basic industry groups. Manufacturing led the field with an increase of 1,700 largely as the result of missile installation activities. Other gains from last March are in this order: mining, up 1,100; government, up 600; trade, up 400; service industries, up 200; and finance, insurance and real estate, up 100. During the same period the transportation and utilities group was down 500 while construction was shy 300 workers mainly because of completed construction at missile site projects.

1963 LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO UCC LAW PROVIDE BUT FEW CHANGES

No significant change in the operations of the Montana UCC program is expected during the next two years as a result of the 1963 Legislative Amendments to the UCC law.

The 1963 Legislative changes in brief:

1) Redefined "qualifying wages" by adding an additional quarter of wages of \$100 or more in those cases where a claimant has wages of \$1,282.50 or more in only one quarter of his base period. Under the 1961 law a claimant with wages of \$1,282.50 in one quarter only could qualify for benefits. He will now need wages of \$100 or more in an additional quarter before he can qualify.

2) Raised the minimum disqualification from one to two weeks in each of these cases: (a) leaving work without good cause attributable to employment, and (b) for misconduct connected with work or affecting employment, and (c) failure to apply for or accept suitable work.

3) Reduced the floor level of cash reserves in the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund from \$20 million to \$18 million. If the fund falls below and remains below the \$18 million mark continuously for one year, then at the next succeeding calendar quarter employer tax rates will be so figured as to yield an average of 2.0 per cent of insured payrolls. If the fund remains below \$18 million continuously for two years, then all employers will go to the maximum rate of 2.7 per cent. There they will stay until the fund exceeds \$26 million. At that time employer tax rates will be figured to yield an average of 1.5 per cent of taxable insured payrolls. The balance in the trust fund was \$19,508,000.00 on April 15, 1963. Barring unforeseen economic circumstances, it is unlikely that the fund will go below \$18 million during the next two years.

4) Expanded the definition of "gross misconduct" to include, "conduct which demonstrates a flagrant and wanton disregard of and for the right or title or interest of a fellow employee or his employer." Under disqualification provisions of the law, gross misconduct connected with work, or committed on the employer's premises, can disqualify a claimant for twelve months.

As an economy measure the Commission will forego publication of the 1963 edition of the Montana UCC Law and Rules and Regulations. Instead, the few 1963 amendments will be printed on gummed strips of paper which can easily be pasted over the sections of the 1961 law which they replace. These will be mailed to all holders of the 1961 UCC law, and available upon request to any interested citizen.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1)Feb 1963	2)Jan 1963	Feb. 1962	Feb. 1963	Jan. 1963	Feb. 1962	Feb. 1963	Jan. 1963	Feb. 1962	Feb. 1963	Jan. 1963	Feb. 1962	Feb. 1963	Jan. 1963	Feb. 1962
3) All Manufacturing.....	2.1	2.8	3.3	1.6	1.8	2.2	3.5	3.8	3.4	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.6
Durable Goods.....	2.5	3.3	4.3	1.8	2.1	2.8	4.1	4.9	4.0	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.3	2.1	2.0
Primary Metal.....	2.3	3.1	1.5	1.0	1.3	2	2.6	2.7	2.7	.8	.8	.6	.2	.3	1.9
3) Nondurable Goods.....	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.0	2.3	1.3	2.3	1.2	.5	.8	.5	.3	.8
All Mining.....	6.2	7.5	5.1	3.9	4.6	1.4	6.4	6.8	6.3	3.4	2.0	2.2	*	1.0	2.4
Metal Mining.....	5.7	8.5	5.3	2.8	3.7	.5	8.1	6.8	5.3	3.8	2.4	2.9	.1	.2	.8

1) Preliminary rates used on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures revised on more complete returns. 3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations. *Less than .05.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Mar. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(383 jobseekers, 63 new, 253 men, 130 women). No appreciable change noted in area economy during March, but some improvement shown in a few industry groups. Construction, smelter, and public works hiring provided most March job openings. Main street hiring trends not yet up to par. Unemployment claims about 10% higher than last year.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3, 161 jobseekers, 649 new, 2,202 men, 959 women). Construction set the pace for increased spring hiring trends during March. \$12 million in construction projects in immediate Billings area to be in progress this summer. Over 500 employed on interstate highway work. Yellowstone Dam work force expected to increase to 1,000 by late summer. Labor supply now adequate to meet demands on this project. Declining employment trends evident in oil fields and coal mining at Roundup. Area public work projects employ nearly 100 workers. Main street hiring patterns scheduled to expand as summer season advances. Work on the farm front ahead of schedule.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(472 jobseekers, 199 new, 313 men, 159 women). Over \$5 million in construction projects now in progress or soon to start. Included are industrial, commercial, educational structures, and highway and bridge work. Lumber industry not yet adversely affected by spring breakup conditions. Other manufacturing, including cement and electronics, at good pace. Strong labor demand for farm workers seen during April.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(949 jobseekers, 301 new, 633 men, 316 women). Steadily improving trends in the metal mining industry and good volume of construction augurs well for the summer employment season. Main street hiring does not keep pace but employment expansion should develop as the work season progresses. Public works projects and ARA training helping to cut some unemployment. Farm labor demand not too active.

CUT BANK—(421 jobseekers, 40 new, 315 men, 106 women). Spring hiring trends in industry starting to develop with generally more optimism than last year. Trends on the farm front, however, not too good as lack of moisture points to another dry year. Activity during March centered chiefly in public works projects at Browning, city street paving, and Browning lumber mill.

DILLON—(137 jobseekers, 65 new, 96 men, 41 women). Work on Clark Canyon Dam, including canals and laterals, main construction activity. Start of work on 10

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	1963 Mar.	1963 Feb.	1962 Mar.	1954-63 Mar. Avg.
Industrial Employment	162,900	161,500	159,600	155,300
New Job Applicants	3,490	3,520	3,326	3,324
Job Applicants, End of Month	15,510	17,032	18,935	17,187
Insured Unemployment Week of	Apr. 5 1963	Mar. 1 1963	Apr. 6 1962	Avg. 1st Apr. Wk. 1959-63
New and Renewal Claims	864	1,145	1,343	1,038
Unemployed Weeks Filed	8,084	10,663	9,609	11,710
Total Unemployment Claims	8,948	11,808	10,952	12,748

miles of secondary roads delayed by ground frost. Most new commercial building nearing completion. Main street hiring at low ebb. Farm labor demand increasing weekly.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(383 jobseekers, 48 new, 265 men, 120 women). Labor market activity little changed from February. Work on low rental housing project chief construction activity. Preliminary work started on irrigation pump-in plant at Frazer and new service station at Glasgow. Farm hiring on uswing with start of tillage and seeding operations.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(345 jobseekers, 53 new, 242 men, 103 women). Warmer weather during March resulted in recall of most construction workers, but little new hiring in evidence. Major building projects include high school and clinic. Very little oil field activity but some hiring for seismograph crews. Farm labor demand starting to develop.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,911 jobseekers, 600 new, 1,431 men, 480 women). March labor demand not too active in any industry. Hiring upswing predicted for most groups during April. Construction work at missile projects nearing end with workers transferring to other areas of similar work. Main street hiring keeping well to seasonal lines. Orders for farm workers building up daily.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(343 jobseekers, 73 new, 265 men, 78 women). Jobseeker files showed little change from February but are about 35% below last year. Heavy registration of young jobseekers, most with no experience. March hiring chiefly in construction and trade industries. Forty-two workers placed on public work projects. General farm work, potato sorting and hauling main agricultural activities.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(421 jobseekers, 114 new, 355 men, 66 women). Job placements doubled from February and considerably above last year chiefly because of public works projects on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. Moderate hiring occurred in construction, trade, and agriculture. Outlook for railroad employment below past year. Shortage of farm workers expected during April.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(737 jobseekers, 166 new, 563 men, 174 women). March labor demand mostly for clerical and sales workers with some shortages at the end of the month. Construction callbacks also helped reduce unemployment. Construction phase of \$10 million cement plant completed, and now operating with production crew of 38. September 1 set as completion of VA Hospital at Fort Harrison. Trade and farm hiring exhibiting good trends.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,769 jobseekers, 218 new, 1,577 men, 192 women). Jobseeker count up during March due to heavy weather-caused layoffs in logging. Mill work generally on steady schedules; 3 mills resumed operations after winter shutdown. Good hiring trends in construction; main projects include high schools at Libby and Big Fork. Main street demand chiefly for sales clerks, cooks, waitresses, and general office help.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnet—(395 jobseekers, 82 new, 321 men, 74 women). Generally good hiring trends in industry and farm during March. Industry hiring up 22% from last year. Farm hiring doubled from February with more demand expected next 30 days. Missile projects employ about 750, a drop of 250 from February as some phases completed. New projects include city water system and highway work.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(469 jobseekers, 77 new, 325 men, 144 women). Area economy on upswing with return of good weather. Good trends prevail in lumber manufacturing, but logging slowed somewhat by spring breakup conditions. Construction employment down considerably from last year. Recall of workers to Yellowstone Park started. Good hiring for main street establishments and roadside drive-ins now opening. Farm hiring up with worker supply and demand presently in balance.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(324 jobseekers, 72 new, 268 men, 56 women). Labor market trends remained rather passive throughout March. Opening of new interstate highway, bypassing city by 3 miles, causing some concern to businessmen who count on tourist trade.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	150.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	157.3	158.2	159.6	165.5	170.9	179.4	178.5	177.9	175.8	174.2	172.3	169.6	170.0
1963	161.9	161.7	161.9*										

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Mar. 1

Competition from new shopping center and super market may force smaller units to adjust working hours and business methods. Farm hiring on par with last year.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,357 jobseekers, 414 new, 998 men, 359 women). Mixed trends dominated the March labor market. The brighter side reflected good activity in lumber manufacturing and most construction. Continued slowdown in logging and lagging main street business, especially in durable goods, provided the other side. Seasonal recall of forest service and other government workers began. Farm hiring slowed by wet weather.

POLSON—(401 jobseekers, 37 new, 310 men, 91 women). Labor market trends in both industry and agriculture not yet too active. No major construction projects in sight but home building should employ most building craftsmen. Shut down of most logging due to spring breakup still in effect. Farm hiring below last year. Prospects for sweet cherry crop not too good because of frost damage to the trees.

SHELBY—(295 jobseekers, 84 new, 206 men, 89 women). Industry job hiring doubled from February but down slightly from last year. Demand for workers in trade, construction, and service industries expected to pick up during April. Farm labor demand fairly steady but future farm outlook not too optimistic if drought conditions continue.

SIDNEY—(215 jobseekers, 43 new, 200 men, 15 women). Favorable employment outlook now evident in most industry groups for summer work season. Main street business generally better than last year. New building and highway projects about ready to start. Active leasing and seismograph operations point to increased oil field work. Farm labor demand good with some shortage of farm hands at present.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(259 jobseekers, 57 new, 224 men, 35 women). Job placements under the public works program accounted for most of the labor activity during March. Logging still in clamp of spring breakup but some improvement expected by mid-April. Weather postponed some building construction. Main street hiring trends not too brisk.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(361 jobseekers, 35 new, 297 men, 64 women). Employment in most industries started to pick up as March ended. Good agenda of building and highway work should absorb all skilled workers during next 2 months. Little change noted in oil field drilling from last month but upswing seen next 30 days. Trade and service units expanding staffs for summer business. Farm hiring light.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 960 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,322 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Mar. 1963 (2)	Feb. 1963 (3)	Mar. 1962	Feb. '63 to Mar. '63	Mar. '62 to Mar. '63
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	162,900	161,500	159,600	1,400	3,300
Manufacturing	21,400	21,700	19,700	300	1,700
Durable goods	14,500	14,600	12,500	100	2,000
Lumber and timber products	7,800	7,900	7,200	100	600
Primary metals	3,200	3,200	3,600	00	400
Other (4)	3,500	3,500	1,700	00	1,800
Nondurable goods	6,900	7,100	7,200	200	300
Food and kindred products	3,700	3,900	3,800	200	100
Printing and publishing	1,700	1,700	1,600	00	100
Petroleum refining	1,000	1,000	1,100	00	100
Other (5)	500	500	700	00	200
Mining	7,600	7,500	6,500	100	1,100
Metal mining	4,300	4,300	3,800	00	500
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	800	800	700	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	2,500	2,400	2,000	100	500
Contract Construction	8,700	7,800	9,000	900	300
Contractors, building construction	2,200	2,000	2,000	200	200
Contractors, other than building	2,500	1,800	3,400	700	900
Contractors, special trade	4,000	4,000	3,600	00	400
Transportation and utilities	17,000	17,000	17,500	00	500
Interstate railroads	7,600	7,600	7,900	00	300
Transportation except railroads	3,700	3,700	3,800	00	100
Utilities including communication	5,700	5,700	5,800	00	100
Trade	38,000	37,400	37,600	600	400
Wholesale trade	8,000	7,800	8,200	200	200
Retail trade	30,000	29,600	29,400	400	600
General merchandise and apparel	5,900	5,800	5,600	100	300
Food stores	4,700	4,700	4,800	00	100
Eating and drinking establishments	7,000	6,800	7,000	200	00
Automotive and filling stations	6,300	6,300	6,100	00	200
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,100	6,000	5,900	100	200
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,700	6,700	6,600	00	100
Services and miscellaneous	23,100	22,900	22,900	200	200
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2,600	2,500	2,500	100	100
Personal services	2,000	1,900	1,900	100	100
Other (6)	18,500	18,500	18,500	00	00
Government	40,400	40,500	39,800	100	600
Federal	10,200	10,200	10,200	00	00
State and local	30,200	30,300	29,600	100	600
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,500	23,100	22,200	400	1,300
Manufacturing	5,200	5,200	3,400	00	1,800
Contract construction	1,900	1,800	2,600	100	700
Transportation and utilities	2,000	2,100	2,100	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,600	5,400	5,400	200	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,600	3,500	3,500	100	100
Government	4,000	3,900	4,000	100	00
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	21,800	21,500	21,600	300	200
Manufacturing	2,200	2,200	2,200	00	00
Contract construction	1,000	1,000	900	00	100
Transportation and utilities	2,400	2,400	2,600	00	200
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,000	6,900	7,100	100	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,200	4,100	4,000	100	200
Government	3,700	3,600	3,500	100	200

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership or-

ganizations and businesses not otherwise classified

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN MARCH 1963 AND MARCH 1962

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims* Wk. 4-5	
	Mar. 1963		Mar. 1962		Mar. 1963		Mar. 1962		Mar. 1963				Mar. 1962				1963	1962
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		
Anaconda.....	63	9	77	10	383	73	382	49	44	10	54	15	55	21	76	23	207	227
Billings.....	649	96	561	134	3,161	742	3,052	628	518	112	630	212	447	125	572	201	1,739	1,422
Bozeman.....	199	35	163	36	472	84	769	163	113	49	162	29	101	36	137	26	398	262
Butte.....	301	47	224	38	949	216	1,430	262	116	3	119	26	178	15	193	57	711	613
Cnt. Bank.....	40	5	61	15	421	111	446	87	85	85	170	55	31	130	161	25	236	165
Dillon.....	65	22	51	18	137	27	188	56	33	113	146	55	33	104	137	71	117	99
Glasgow.....	48	5	85	19	385	68	560	172	38	20	58	12	65	24	89	23	376	293
Glendive.....	53	4	61	9	345	33	341	86	49	13	62	11	70	13	83	27	161	122
Great Falls.....	600	171	504	92	1,911	571	2,932	868	223	76	299	85	326	225	551	107	1,358	995
Hamilton.....	73	14	61	13	343	80	540	121	64	28	92	26	27	18	45	21	284	223
Havre.....	114	23	114	14	421	109	672	185	99	77	176	71	76	79	155	36	282	214
Helena.....	166	31	204	33	737	218	876	245	122	23	145	48	119	16	135	22	539	495
Kalispell.....	218	45	168	28	1,769	605	1,938	552	145	21	166	52	82	6	88	29	1,550	1,415
Lewistown.....	82	20	80	19	395	111	420	100	58	63	121	36	48	60	108	34	293	240
Livingston.....	77	10	69	15	469	98	492	119	47	14	61	19	44	9	53	14	327	285
Miles City.....	72	8	87	12	324	78	421	139	48	68	116	13	51	88	139	30	273	175
Missoula.....	414	75	433	80	1,357	335	1,645	387	161	14	175	34	190	28	218	38	880	763
Polson.....	37	7	61	5	401	98	399	111	25	22	47	11	36	97	133	27	298	261
Shelby.....	84	19	83	25	295	83	384	102	43	40	83	11	45	38	83	31	180	138
Sidney.....	43	6	39	3	215	33	290	61	31	19	50	10	29	17	46	13	198	136
Thomp. Falls.....	57	16	38	14	259	67	341	106	66	2	68	35	39		39	10	228	186
Wolf Point.....	35	10	102	28	361	85	417	99	16	5	21	6	16	13	29	7	317	219
TOTALS.....	3,490	678	3,326	660	15,510	3,925	18,935	4,698	2,144	877	3,021	872	2,108	1,162	3,270	872	10,952	8,948

*Includes 726 claims of the Fed. UC Program 517 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar (1) 1963	Feb (2) 1963	Mar. 1962	Mar (1) 1963	Feb (2) 1963	Mar. 1962	Mar (1) 1963	Feb (2) 1963	Mar. 1962
All Manufacturing.....	\$108.81	\$109.61	\$ 98.92	40.6	40.9	39.1	\$ 2.68	\$ 2.68	\$ 2.53
Durable goods.....	109.67	111.30	94.95	41.7	42.0	39.4	2.63	2.65	2.41
Primary metals.....	104.13	104.40	103.06	39.9	40.0	40.1	2.61	2.61	2.57
Nondurable goods.....	106.31	106.20	106.86	37.7	38.2	38.3	2.82	2.78	2.79
Food and kindred products.....	91.63	91.57	95.51	38.5	39.3	40.3	2.38	2.33	2.37
All Mining.....	110.70	112.47	111.41	40.4	41.5	42.2	2.74	2.71	2.64
Metal mining.....	107.09	106.70	104.52	38.8	38.8	39.0	2.76	2.75	2.68
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads).....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and communications.....	99.97	101.01	98.11	38.6	39.0	39.4	2.59	2.59	2.49

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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